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STANDARD FOR QUALITY BEST AXE MADE.
FOR SALE BY THE LEADING MERCHANTS OF ROBESON COUNTY.

Sargent's Gem Food Chopper CHOPS FOOD

BOTTLED COOKED AND UNCOOKED, REDUCES kitchen drudgery, lessens household labor. Takes the place of chopping bowl and knife; useful in preparing all kinds of dishes.

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Whatever

The farmer needs we make a specialty of handling. It's in our line; it's our business to get farm supplies of all kinds and we strive to keep our stock fresh and equal to all demands. We still continue agents for the celebrated

Hickory Wagons,

Which for years have given such general satisfaction in this and other sections, and undoubtedly say that for farm and road purposes it is not excelled. Besides having a supply of these on hand we have recently received a full line of Cart and Wagon Wheels and

Open and Top Buggies.

We are the originators of the buggy business in this town, and think our past experience enables us to give special attention to all who purchase of us. We can supply you with Harness, Bridles, Collars, Whips, etc., etc. Accept our thanks for your past patronage, and give us a share of your future favors.

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TOBACCO GROWERS.

Bill Introduced for Their Relief By Gaines of Tennessee.

The Action of the Southern Senators Assures the Passage of the Treaty and the Digging of the Canal.

Washington D. C. Jan 20.—The bill recently introduced by Mr. Gaines, Tennessee, for the relief of tobacco growers, and the vigor with which he is urging it, is awakening much interest. It repeals all tax- and restrictions on free and unlimited trade in leaf tobacco and permits any- one, anywhere, to buy and sell in any quantity. It provides also that a grower may stem and twist and sell his own crop without tax or license, or deliver it to another person to sell for him (the heavy tax on leaf tobacco (six cents) and the rigid and exacting requirements of the law regulating its manufacture have given the tobacco trust complete control of tobacco and growers are complaining everywhere that they are not allowed a living price for growing it. Mr. Gaines has gone laboriously through the history of tobacco tax legislation and found that at its inception it was distinctly and repeatedly stated that it was only a war measure, and would be remitted when the war necessities subsided. All of those war measures have been remitted except this burden on tobacco growers. Under existing law the department rigidly holds that the least change in the form of raw tobacco as it comes out of the barn is "manufacturing."

If a farmer stems a hand, or twists or presses it, or in any wise changes it from its form in the natural hand, he becomes a manufacturer and must either take out a license and conform to the various and onerous requirements of the law, or he is prosecuted and fined and imprisoned as a felon. He is not permitted to prepare his own product for market nor participate in any profits. The law drives him bodily over to the trust. Tobacco growers everywhere are urging the relief afforded by Mr. Gaines' bill. From the reaction taken by several of the southern states, it looks now like the treaty with Panama would be ratified by the Senate. The people of the South undoubtedly want a canal that they have so long been denied by the machinations of the transccontinental railroads and the help of their co-adjutors, the Republicans in Congress. They are eminently right in wanting a canal. It means much for them and their future, but they ought not to tie the hands of their Senators in Congress in the matter of ratification. If Panama were the only place at which a canal could be built, they perhaps would be justified in telling their Senators that this is the last chance and we must have the canal no matter how many commandments we fracture in getting it.

But this is not the only place where a canal can be built, but there was a law on the statute books for the construction of a canal at Nicaragua, and the money already appropriated for it. There was not the shadow of excuse for the rape of Colombia and the birth of the bastard Panama republic. The rape was committed, and the bastard was born for the reason that the railroads wanted the canal as far away from the United States as it was possible to get it provided there was to be a canal whether or no, and because the Republican party was to get a campaign fund of five million dollars out of the ten million promised to Panama. These are two excellent reasons from a Republican standpoint for looting a neighborly republic of one of its provinces or states. While it is true we will can recognize a bastard child as a fact and an entity, and not quarrel with it because of its illegitimate birth, yet we all condemn the crime of bastardy. For that crime the Republican administration should be punished by the people of the country. The treaty should be turned down. Instead of allowing the President to say to the Democrats in the Senate that it is up to them to ratify the treaty or get no canal, they should defeat the ratification of the treaty and then say to the President that it is up to him to obey the Spooner law and go to Nicaragua or get no canal. If the treaty is ratified it will have been done by the workings of the commercial consciences of the people of the country.

It is sometimes well to remember that if you don't say a thing you will have no occasion to unsay it later.

Ears and Noses For Sale.

The British Medical Journal prints a story which competes handsomely with the recent account of the grafting of an ear in the United States. It is the case of an old man of 60, the finger of whose right hand was bitten off by a pig in company with a friend and the finger the man walked six miles to a doctor's house, when after hunting in all his pockets, the friend produced the finger, covered with tobacco dust. In spite of the fact that the finger had been off about two hours, it was fixed in place again and stump and finger have grown together nicely.

The American ear grafting story also seems to have aroused a spirit of emulation in France, where a Frenchman has written to the French surgeon, Guillaume Livet, offering his ears, nose and pieces of his skin for grafting purposes. In case Dr. Livet does not need them in his own practice, the correspondent would esteem it a favor if he would wear him in mind in the event of a colleague requiring them. He also suggests that the Academy of Science and the Faculty of Medicine might find use for parts of a living body. "If so, please let me know and I will be most grateful," he says.

He adds a postscript to the effect that the charges for parts of his anatomy will be "moderate at first." Indeed, it is only natural to suppose that the prices will advance proportionately to the reduction of his person. He also says that special arrangements may be made for the poor who need pieces of him.

Oxford Female Seminary Burned.
The Female Seminary at Oxford, N. C., caught on fire Monday morning while the teachers and scholars were at breakfast, says a dispatch. The fire originated in one of the rooms on the second floor, under the carpet, catching from the heater.

The alarm was given and the hook and ladder company responded quickly, but it was seen from the first that the entire building would be burned, and the work of saving the furniture of the building and the trunks of the boarders was begun. Pianos, bed clothes, carpets, and everything that could be brought out was carried into the streets and adjacent yards. The fire caught in the south end of the building and burned the entire structure. Fortunately the wind was blowing in a favorable direction and not very strong, which saved the surrounding residences.

The young ladies of the school will be cared for in the families of Oxford until they leave for their homes. Estimates as to insurance on the property are around \$10,000, the loss being placed all the way from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The school had just opened under most encouraging auspices, and the people of Oxford are in full sympathy with Prof. Hobgood in this calamity. It was fortunate indeed that the fire occurred in the day time. The lack of a fire company was keenly felt.

Game in a Hollow Log.
Irvin Williams, of 2416 V. nabestreet, Richmond, while hunting for birds a few days ago noticed his setter, Dick, standing firm and backed up by the setters of James Wright, Pat and Ruby. The dogs had trailed the birds to a hollow log. Pat, a beautiful bla. Belton setter, went into the hollow log. Young Williams took off his coat and pushed his hand into the cavity of the log, when to his surprise, he found a dead bird. Thinking there were more, he tried a second time, when he cried out as if suffering from great pain. His friends soon got to him, only to find his arm caught far up into the hollow.

It was found that a 'coon had been caught in a steel trap and had broken the chain. The trap was a double trap, and had caught young Williams by the finger, which was badly cut.

With much trouble he was released, and to the surprise of all a twenty pound 'coon and twelve partridges were found.

A Cloud Inspector.
Col. Fairbrother, of Everything, says the Greensboro Record, wants a cloud inspector appointed, whose duty each day will be to climb a high telephone pole or ascend to some roof high in the air and view the landscape over and report. He would do about as much good as the average inspector.

The weather man seems to have no consideration whatever for our tobacco market, says the Durham Sun. He continues to give us a brand that is not conducive to handling the weed, and consequently very little is now coming in. It is too cold, and the humidity too dry.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Predominance of Japan in Korea Recognized.

Russia's Demand for a Neutral Zone on Korean Side of the Yalu and Japan's Counter Proposals Yet Unsettled.

The Associated Press Correspondent at St. Petersburg, under date of Jan. 18, on high authority, is able to give the following as the present status of the negotiation between Russia and Japan:
Russia recognizes Japan's predominance in Korea and Japan recognizes a Russia's special position in Manchuria. There are two main questions still at issue—the Russia demand for a neutral zone on the Korean side of Yalu River, which Japan met with a proposal for a similar neutral strip on the Manchurian side. Japan also asks for certain guarantees covering Manchuria which Russia thus far has declined to grant. It is pointed out, however, that the assurances given a few days ago by Russia regarding open ports in Manchuria and respect for treaty rights is a concession on this point.

That the two countries are not so far apart may be fairly inferred from the following statement made by Mr. Kurino, the Japanese minister, to the Associated Press correspondent:
"War now would only be disastrous to both countries. Owing to the geographical situation, an armed conflict would result in a great drain of the men and treasure of both Japan and Russia without being decisive. Besides, I believe it would not be worth while to go to war on the question still in dispute."

The Czar's assurance given at the Winter Palace, January 14, on the occasion of the New Year's reception, that he desired and intended to do all in his power to maintain peace in the Far East, is regarded by the foreign diplomats as a hostage given to the world for the preservation of peace, while the guarantee that Russia will recognize the open ports and other concessions in Manchuria will, it is thought, place the onus of a rupture on Japan. Most of the newspapers, perhaps, here join in the peaceful chorus, one paper remarking, however, that it was strange for Russians to first hear of the Czar's words by way of America.

There is a strong indication that, through the Czar's personal acts, the peace party is completely in the ascendant, M. Bzobroff, the head of the war party, has gone abroad, Foreign Minister Lamsdorff, who from the beginning, has favored peace, is now completely rehabilitated and Viceroy Alexieff has been made subservient to the Foreign Office in the Russo-Japanese negotiations. His extensive powers are curtailed and he can make no move without the Czar's personal approval. In fact, the fresh assurances conveyed through Ambassador Cassini to the authorities at Washington, of the recognition of the rights acquired by the Chinese treaty, is largely attributed to Count Lamsdorff's influence. Diplomatic circles regard his conduct of the negotiations under the Czar's direction as a very hopeful sign. Another strong influence on the side of peace has been the attitude of M. Witte, president of the Council of State, who has been bending his energies to avoid a conflict.

A dispatch from Port Arthur says that the Japanese banks are rapidly closing up their accounts in Manchuria and are stopping business. Japan is seeking for agents in Manchuria and Korea to supply the government with information of Russian movements, in view of the hurried departure of Japanese residents.

The Russian occupation of Sin-Miu-Tuu, 80 miles west of Mukden, is now reported to be an accomplished fact.

Semiteetotal.
Archdeacon Sinclair told the Semiteetotal Pledge Association of the diary of a Scottish shepherd, which read: "Sunday—Up in the morning at 6—a dram (whisky). Went out to see the sheep—a dram. Came home to breakfast—a dram. Locked round the house—a dram. Washed and dressed for church—a dram. Took a brandy before going to kirk lest I should smell of whiskey in the house of the Lord."

The name of the association was responsible for the archdeacon's own experiences. He was once lurching alone in the house of a friend confined to his room by an accident. The housekeeper brought up a tray of good things and a ked the archdeacon what he would have to drink, for, she said, "I've 'erd you're not a temperate gentleman."

High Prices for Five Years.

Mr. O. P. Heath is one of the leading cotton merchants of Charlotte, says the Charlotte Chronicle. He is interested in cotton mills and is in touch with the cotton mill side of the question as well as the side of raw cotton. On being asked to give an opinion of the cotton market Mr. Heath said:
"It will be a long time before we see cheap cotton again. The factories have taken thousands of families from the cotton fields. Cotton ought not to have gone up in price before it did. The supply has been scant for several years past but the trade didn't realize it. Here at Charlotte we've built a city of thirty thousand people. Most of those have come from farms. All over the cotton States factories have been established and cities and towns have been built. Where did the people come from to do this? Not from the North or from Europe. They came from the cotton farms. The present price is reasonable in view of these changes.

"How long will the present standard of prices last?" was asked.
"Till conditions again change. This will take time. I can see no promise of low prices for five years to come. The manufacturing population are not going back to the farm. Where are the new farmers to take the places of those who have gone into manufacturing? If they come from the North it will take time—years of time to come and get settled. If they come from Europe there must be time for them to come in numbers, to learn the language and to learn how to cultivate cotton. I have no doubt we will get people in time and that we will have a far larger production than at present in time, but I speak of high prices now and for five years to come."
"But," asked the newspaperman, "suppose we have a big crop next year. Wouldn't the South supply the demand at lower prices?"
"If we have a big crop next year prices will be high by present standards. We haven't the labor to gather a big crop per acre. Leave out the boll weevil, which may be a factor. The world is needing more cotton all the time. Last year we were short. This year we will be short again. A big crop next year wouldn't make up the losses. Therefore, a big crop will not put prices down to anything like what we ordinarily consider low prices."

Assuming these views of Mr. Heath to be correct, the situation makes a very promising outlook for the farmer and the merchant who furnishes the farmer. And there's the commercial fertilizer man, whose prospects would seem brighter than for a long time in the past.

Aie Mrs. Dooley's Cats.
Mrs. Dooley, stewardess of the liner Noordland, had two cats, says a dispatch from Philadelphia. They were given her by the Countess of Ecklin and were named Salome and Harlowe. They were the parting gifts of the Countess when Mrs. Dooley left her service as housekeeper to become one of the steamer's crew.

These cats were always well cared for on the Noordland. Five days over the Noordland reached port this week. The five days hit the steership hard in the way of provisions. Most of the immigrants thought they might all most as well be shipwrecked as go hungry.

But the cats were sleek and fat. It was on last Wednesday that Mrs. Dooley first noticed the absence of her pets. When the Noordland docked and they had not yet appeared, she grew alarmed. A search was ordered. Under the bunk occupied by one of the Italian passengers two silky skins were found. The remainder of the cats was gone. The Italian explained that he had run out of provisions. The fatness of the cats had tempted him. He caught them, slit their throats and lived for four days on their bodies.

Patronizing Home Industry.
It may interest the public to know that the board of education of Mecklenburg county has an established rule to spend no money outside the county when it can be avoided, says the Charlotte Chronicle. The money for all the new buildings that have been erected, including the material and furnishings, has been spent with Mecklenburg people. Even the desks and bells are manufactured at home. "We believe in patronizing home industry," said Superintendent Cochran in speaking of the matter, "and I am glad to say that we can buy everything we want here at home. Today I gave one Mecklenburg firm a check for \$4,000 for material used in erecting new school buildings and contracted with another home concern to supply us with the bells we will need."

A CARD OF THANKS

We want to thank our many customers for their liberal patronage during the year 1903 and hope for a continuance of the same during the year 1904. We are going to strive to DO MORE BUSINESS THIS YEAR than ever before at this point, and to do this we must cater for your trade and every dollar you spend with us WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED, and we will give you FULL WORTH. Just come and see. We have on hand A SURGE LINE OF SHOES of all kinds, that we can give you good bargains in. We also have a LARGE STOCK OF WINTER CLOTHING on hand that we are selling very cheap to make room for the LARGE STOCK we have bought. We must have room. Come and get a bargain while they go. We have also a nice line of SHIRTS, COATS, OVERPALES, PANTS and OVERCOATS and FURNITURE. We have it. Also Carpets, Matting, Rugs, etc. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. Come and see. Yours for Business.

BLACKER BROTHERS,
LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

A Permanent Place.

We herewith take pleasure to thank our friends and patrons from Robeson and surrounding counties for their patronage last fall and winter, and at the same time we take the liberty of informing all that we took their advice to remain at Ashpole permanently. We engaged two of the best and most courteous salesmen to attend to our business in the spring and summer while we were North buying the stock. We will under no consideration carry over our winter stock left over for another season. We will sell our entire "left over stock," consisting of

CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, DRY GOODS, DRESS GOODS, ETC.,

For the next Thirty Days for less than the cost of the materials to make it. Come early and get the first choice. Remember, this sale will only last for 30 days.

Respectfully,
DUNIE BROS.
ASHPOLE, N. C.

Look for our Big Sign. Our Motto, THE NEW YORK RACKET STORE. No trouble to show goods; polite attention to all.

THE BANK OF LUMBERTON, LUMBERTON, N. C.

Capital Stock paid in Cash,	\$30,000 00
Individual Liability of Stockholders in addition to Capital,	20,000 00
Surplus and Profits,	23,871 62
Total Deposits, December 3rd, 1903,	276,828 11
Total Resources, December 3rd, 1903,	\$340,397 63

Offers to the people of Robeson County and the public generally every accommodation consistent with safe banking. We solicit the accounts of individuals, firms, corporations and trustees.

- PROMPTNESS, SECURITY AND ACCURACY GUARANTEED.**
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THE LIVE AND LET LIVE POLICY.

We understand this to mean that where different parties are interested in the same object or enterprise, the interest of each party should be regarded as entitled to its proportion of profit or advantage. We regard each and every one of our customers as interested in our mercantile business, because it is through their patronage that the present insignificant volume of business has been attained.

We believe that if it were possible to assemble in one audience the thousands of people who patronize our store that a resolution, after being duly made and seconded, would be unanimously passed, as follows, to wit: "Resolved, That our business dealings with the firm of CALDWELL & CARLYLE have always been satisfactory and agreeable, and that all goods purchased of them have been found to be exactly as represented, and that we believe in a desire of this firm to be to give fair and just treatment to every customer; therefore, "Resolved further, That we continue to trade with them as long as they do business on their present policy of Live and Let Live."

Intending to enlarge and increase our efforts in 1904 over all past records, we are, with great appreciation,

CALDWELL & CARLYLE.